

**Summary of the Fur Advisory Council Meeting
October 21, 2013
New Iberia, Louisiana**

Council Present

Archie Domangue
Frank Ellender
Charles Pettefer, Jr.
James Gallaspy
(Steve Hughs via speaker phone)

LDWF Presence

Tanya Sturman
Edmond Mouton
Buddy Baker
Bob Love

Council Absent

Allan Ensminger
Steve Hughes
Tony Howard
John Linzay
Judge Edwards

Frank moved agenda items six and seven up to spots four and five.

Jimmy nominated Frank for Chairman and Tony for Vice Chairman. Archie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jimmy nominated to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cameron Fur Festival

Vicky Little, who runs the fur festival pageant, requested fur coats for the fur queens. The Department will loan the pageant fur coats for a fashion show. The queens would be presented with coats in January during the fur festival.

Archie motioned to purchase two fur coats for the Cameron Fur Festival at a price for up to \$3,000. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Beijing Fur Fair

Edmond said that Tony would like attend the Fur Fair. Michael requested that Tanya also go.

Archie motioned to seek Department approval for international travel for two people to go to China. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

China Marketing Program

Edmond updated the Council on Nick's contract. It was terminated in late July, because he was living in England and was not able to fulfill his obligations. He and Michael were not communicating frequently. Michael has contracted with a translator in China to help him communicate with fur buyers in China. Bob Love clarified that Nick Shao had not submitted a completed contact list. There was misinformation and missing information in the list that he submitted. This led the Department to believe that the follow up with the Chinese buyers was not happening. Edmond said that Nick could not meet face to face with buyers in China while he was living in England.

Trapping Season Report

Edmond gave the Council members the Council season reports for the past two years to demonstrate positive growth. Trapping license sales have increased. The licenses for the age group 14 and under have also increased. Edmond believes that this is a result of trapper workshops for children.

Other Business

Edmond introduced Quincy, a new buyer, to the Council and to Jennifer, the LDWF employee who manages the Nutria Control Program. Quincy lives in Terrebonne Parish and is interested in buying nutria. They discussed the possibility of having a trapper workshop in Terrebonne Parish.

Edmond went over fur prices, which are increasing. Trapping license sales have slowly but steadily increased over the past eight years.

Jimmy asked about the CITES paperwork and if he has to keep it on the animal or if he can have it in the cab of the truck. Edmond told him that he has to have the paperwork filled out and with the other paperwork.

Archie asked if Hatem was buying other fur or just nutria. Tanya said that Hatem is just buying nutria right now. Michael wanted to go to the Turkish fur fair so that he can start moving other furs into Turkey. Right now the Chinese buyers are purchasing all of Louisiana's other furs. Jimmy said that everything has been sold. Louisiana dealers are not holding any furs right now.

Edmond showed the Council members the fur purchases for sample that will be used in China. In Michael's proposal he included \$6,000 for a fur sample budget. Archie had asked how this money was spent. Buddy questioned the prices that Michael is paying for fur. He said that the prices were quite a bit higher than the average prices. Jimmy said that he is a competitor, and he thinks the fur prices are probably okay. The prices are a little high, but he thinks Danny is picking out good furs, and the prices are fine for good furs.

Edmond said that Michael's contract is still in the approval process at the Office of Contract of Review. There have been a lot of changes in state contracting lately. Michael has been working for almost four months without a contract.

Jimmy motioned to adjourn. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.